

AN ANGLICAN-UNITING CHURCH COVENANT OF ASSOCIATION

Under the leading of the Holy Spirit, heeding the Lord Jesus' prayer that his disciples might be one, for the sake of the gospel and as the fruit of three decades of mutual dialogue, the Anglican Church of Australia and the Uniting Church in Australia make the following affirmations and commitments:

Affirmations

1. We affirm that each of our churches stands in the continuity of the apostolic faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the ecumenical creeds.
2. Despite our failures and brokenness in discipleship, we see in each church a genuine desire to witness faithfully to the Gospel and to be engaged in God's mission in the world. We recognise that each of our churches is a part of the one holy catholic and apostolic church.
3. We affirm that in both our churches the word of God is truly preached and the sacraments of baptism and holy communion are faithfully administered.
4. We affirm that both the ordained ministries and other ministries of our churches are given by God as instruments of grace, to build up the people of God in faith, hope and love, and to share in God's mission in the world.
5. We affirm that ordained ministers in both churches have received the inward call of the Holy Spirit, and the commission of Jesus Christ given through the church, to provide for a ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral oversight.
6. We affirm that personal, communal and collegial oversight (episcopate) is embodied and exercised in both churches in different and complementary forms, personal and conciliar, to serve the Church's faithfulness to the Gospel.

Commitments

1. Building upon our common confession of the apostolic faith, our common baptism and our participation in God's mission, we commit ourselves to advance the visible unity of the Anglican and Uniting Churches in Australia at every level, as a contribution to the full visible unity of the Church of Christ.
2. We commit ourselves to continue to welcome each other's baptised members to participate in the fellowship, worship and mission of our churches, and to offer eucharistic hospitality to members of each other's churches.
3. We commit ourselves to develop shared resources, to cooperate in mission, evangelism and our public witness to the apostolic faith.
4. We commit ourselves to listen to each other and to take account of each other's concerns, especially in areas that affect our relationship as churches, and to develop ways by which our churches may regularly consult one another on significant matters of faith and order and life and work.
5. We commit ourselves to overcome the remaining obstacles to a fuller visible unity, looking forward to the time when our life together will make possible a reconciled and interchangeable ordered ministry.
6. We will take all possible steps to a closer fellowship in as many areas of Christian life and witness as possible.
7. We make these commitments for the sake of the Gospel.